San Francisco 2014

Where Will You Be Marching for Elephants and Rhinos on September 24?

On Saturday, September 24, the third annual Global March for Elephants and Rhinos will take place in cities around the world to bring attention to the plight of these endangered animals. This year's march is timed to coincide with the opening day of the CITES (Convention on Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna) meeting of the Conference of the Parties taking place in South Africa. CITES is a global treaty that protects species from becoming endangered or extinct because of international trade. The treaty covers more than 35,000 species of wild plants and animals, and involves 181 member countries. The meeting of the Conference of the Parties is held to review, discuss, and negotiate changes in the implementation of CITES, including changes in protections for certain species.

At this year's conference, there are several key proposals affecting elephants and rhinos, including important proposals by the African Elephant Coalition - a consortium of 29 African countries seeking to protect elephants. One of the proposals seeks to ban the international trade in ivory by changing the CITES status of all African elephants to Appendix I, conferring the greatest protection possible. Another proposal would limit the trade in live African elephants to conservation projects in their native habitats. Unbelievably, other countries have proposals that would allow trade in ivory and rhino horn.

African elephants are being slaughtered at a rate of nearly 100 per day in some areas so their tusks can be turned into trinkets and carvings. A rhinoceros is killed every eight hours for its horn, to be sold as status symbols and unproven "medicines." So now is the time to take action for these iconic animals.
PAWS will be marching in San Francisco, as we've done for the past three years. The march will begin at 10:15 a.m. at Union Square (333 Post St., SF) and end there with a rally. Marchers are asked to gather at Union Square no later at 10:00 a.m. For more information, visit MarchForElephants.org or click here for March For Elephants' San Francisco Facebook event page.

If you can't join us in San Francisco, be sure to find an event near you and march to bring awareness to the plight of elephants and rhinos. To locate a march in your area, click here.